

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, claims 5 and 10, which have been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 15 and 16, respectively. Independent claim 1 has been amended to improve its form and to distinguish more clearly over the prior art, and new claims 13 and 14 have been added for more completely covering applicants' invention.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11 have been rejected as being obvious over Ojima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,201,810) in view of Jolivet (European Patent No. 1,099,579), and reconsideration of such rejection is respectively requested. Applicant has disclosed and claimed herein a novel window shade arrangement that is particularly adapted for easy manual operation adjacent a rear window of a motor vehicle. The illustrated shade utilizes a windup shaft rotatably mounted under a rear shelf, a window shade web connected at one end to the windup shaft for extension through a slot in the rear shelf, and a pull rod attached to a leading edge of the window shade web that is guided in lateral guide rails adjacent each side of the window shade web. Actuating elements in the form of linear pushing members push the pull rod into an extracted or extended position covering the window. To prevent articles from falling through the slot upon retraction of the window shade, a pivotably mounted cover is hinged to the shelf.

Pursuant to important features of the invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, the actuating member is designed to impart thrust forces on the rod only as an incident to movement in a direction that extracts the window shade web from the slot, and the actuating element is operable as an incident to movement in an opposite window shade retracting direction for permitting retraction of the window shade into the slot and for then causing positive closing movement of the cover as an incident to an over travel segment of movement in the retracting direction relative to the window shade and its pull rod following retraction of the window shade into the slot. In a preferred embodiment, as set forth in independent claim 13, a biasing element is used for forcing the cover in an opening direction, and the actuating element is operable as an incident to movement in the retracting direction for positively moving the cover to the closed position against the force of the biasing member.

In contrast, Ojima et al., relates to a conventional window shade arrangement for motor vehicles, but as acknowledged by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest applicant's invention. Nor does Jolivet disclose a window shade in which a window shade actuating member is operable during an over travel segment of movement following movement of the window shade into the slot for positively closing the slot cover, as called for in claim 1. Nor does Ojima et al. disclose or suggest a slot cover that is urged in an opening direction by a biasing member and in which the window shade actuating element is operable as an incident to movement in a window shade retracting direction for positively moving the cover to a closed position against the force of the biasing member, as called for in independent claim 13. Since the remaining claims in issue are all dependent on claims 1 and 13, for similar reasons they are believed to distinguish over the art.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented are all directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney on his direct nu on his direct number (312) 616-5640.

Respectfully submitted,



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